

# WHERE IGNORANCE IS BRUTAL

## Century Investigator Reveals Horror of Prison Regime in Southern States

**BRUTALITY** in Southern prisons recently revealed in the trial for murder of a "whipping boss" in a Florida leased convict camp has united in vehement protest one of the large national magazines with the editors of southern and northern newspapers.

The Century Magazine, shocked at the conditions indicated by the Florida revelations, commissioned Frank Tannenbaum, a noted prison investigator, and Adolph Lewisohn, an authority on penal reform, to lay bare the facts in its July issue. The indictments brought by Mr. Tannenbaum against prison systems in several Southern states, are literally blood-curdling even in their mildest descriptions of the living conditions and treatment of prisoners.

Because of the unbelievable harshness of the facts he discovered, Mr. Tannenbaum prepared to fortify his personal observations with numerous quotations from official sources. He has completely avoided mention of the most atrocious discoveries. And, in order that the people of the north and west shall not take advantage of the revelation of conditions in southern prisons to pride themselves at the expense of the south, he has given a brief summary of barbarisms that exist in other sections.

Mr. Lewisohn's article is devoted to constructive suggestions for eliminating the conditions that now exist.

### Not a Kindly Tale

In describing what he found, Mr. Tannenbaum throws out a warning to the extremely sensitive: "It is not a kindly tale. If you are sensitive, it will give you sleepless nights and harrowing dreams. I write it because I must. It is simply an attempt to tell the things that good men do to one another, and to women, too, all in the name of virtue and at great expense to the State."

"These happen," he continues, "to men like yourself and are done by men like yourself, the sufferer and the perpetrator both being unfortunate souls caught in a vortex of passion and hate that drives them to madness and brutality. Unfortunate, ignorant men, strained beyond capacity, incapable of fortitude and needing some outlet and escape from a fruitless, barren existence, impose their wills upon other men more unfortunate and more hopeless."

He considers the prison guards, who have to work from half past four in the morning until seven at night, doing nothing but watch, nervously clutching their guns. "The most fre-

or authority, and that in some instances the guards have ridden over the prisoners with their horses and have set the dogs on them, inflicting serious and painful injuries."

In describing conditions among the chain-gangs, Mr. Tannenbaum gives graphic pictures of the misery and suffering that are products of the system.

### Two Chain-Gang Types

"There are," he says, "two main types of chain-gangs: those where the men live in cages set on wheels, and those where they live in tents set on the ground." The gangs are made up of men whose ankles are chained, and who have still another chain connecting them together. They work, eat and sleep in this condition.

"The typical cages," he reports, "are small and stand on wheels. They range from 7x7x16 to 9x9x20 feet. The typical cage has eighteen beds. There are nine beds on each side of the cage, three tiers of beds, three in a row. That makes the space between the beds very narrow. If the men were free to move about, they would have little room; but they are shackled. Even in the daytime they are often locked to one another. They lie on their beds, their faces almost touching the bed above them. The cage frequently has a tin roofing. On hot Sundays, Saturday afternoons and holidays the sun streams down on the cages and makes an oven of the place and the human beings in it roast. These cages are not clean. Under this crowding it would be impossible to keep them sanitary."

Mr. Tannenbaum describes similarly foul conditions in the gang camps, tells of vile and vermin-filled bedding, and suggests a picture that at the same time provokes nausea and demands pity.

Sanitary conditions do not exist. This is largely because of the ignorance of those responsible for the care of the men. State laws provide,

for instance, for periodical bathing, but in some cases this is done by putting two men into a tub at the same time. More often than not one or both of the men are diseased.

### Chained in Bunks

In describing the insanitary conditions in one of the penitentiaries, Mr. Tannenbaum quotes an official report that states: "Prisoners were found in one instance chained in their bunks by a heavy trace chain, one end of which was padlocked around the prisoner's neck and the other end securely fastened to his bunk." Another report says: "The beds were infested with chiggers that ran in droves, and not merely a few."

Reports of poor and scarce food are

also made repulsive by the accounts of worms and insects that often are found in meat and vegetables.

Care of the sick, or rather the lack of care of the sick, is shown to be on the same plane of ignorance and brutality with the other elements in the horrifying condition. The tuberculous and socially diseased are allowed to communicate their disease to others through an entire absence of safeguards.

"I now am to describe the disciplinary methods," Mr. Tannenbaum continues. "Frankly, I hesitate to subject the reader to the tale of horror that is involved. I shall cite a few instances and those of a milder type."

The first of these "milder" in-

stances tells of straps from five to nine pounds in weight that are used to beat the bare skin of a prisoner, who is held down by a man sitting on his head, another on his feet, while another stuffs a dirty rag into his mouth.

### Hung by Wrists

Another instance is an official report on the condition of a prisoner. "There is evidence of brutal treatment on his wrists and legs that will remain for all time in the form of scars. On each wrist at the outer base of the thumb deep holes were worn in the flesh by the handcuffs as a result of the hanging."

A state farm report brings this: "They had been lacerated by dog bites, and testimony was developed that said lacerations had been inflicted under the direction of the sergeant after the escaped convict had been caught."

Mr. Tannenbaum says: "A guard has told me that when they killed an escaping prisoner he was allowed to lie in his tracks until midnight and then was drawn into the prison camp, that the sleeping inmates were awakened, and made to shake hands with the dead body."

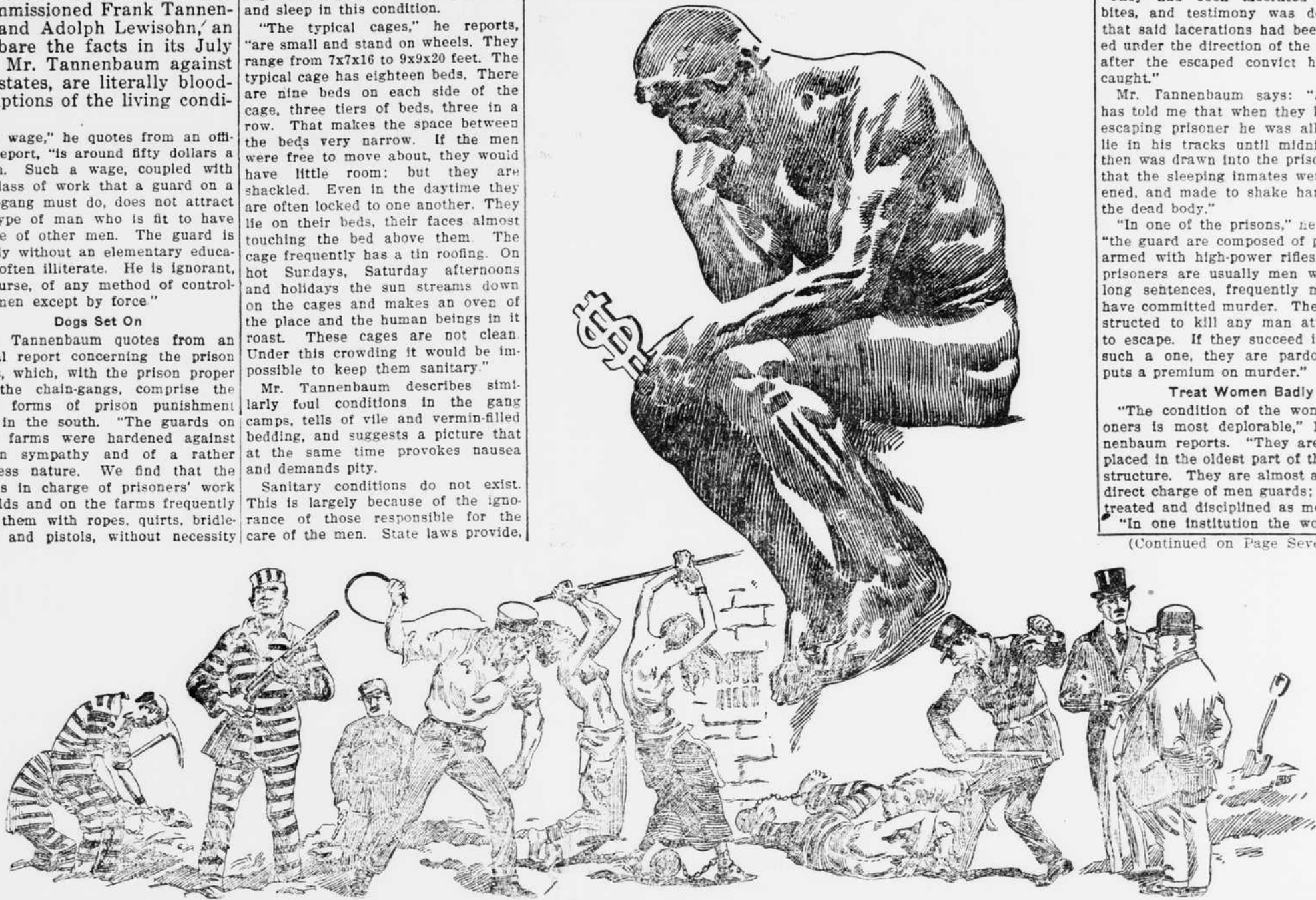
"In one of the prisons," he reports, "the guard are composed of prisoners armed with high-power rifles. These prisoners are usually men who have long sentences, frequently men who have committed murder. They are instructed to kill any man attempting to escape. If they succeed in killing such a one, they are pardoned. It puts a premium on murder."

### Treat Women Badly

"The condition of the women prisoners is most deplorable," Mr. Tannenbaum reports. "They are usually placed in the oldest part of the prison structure. They are almost always in direct charge of men guards; they are treated and disciplined as men are."

"In one institution the women are

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## FALL OF CUNO GOVT. WILL TAKE PLACE ON RETIREMENT

CRITICAL FOOD SHORTAGE AND WORTHLESS MONEY CAUSING UNREST

BERLIN, August 13.—The Reichstag states that the Cuno government's fall will be accomplished immediately upon his retirement. There is said to be a critical food situation, due to the shortage of supplies and high prices, also to the fact that the workers are being paid in worthless paper marks, together with the internal, economic and financial situation, which is regarded as being favorable to bolshevik propaganda.

BERLIN, August 13.—All of the Berlin banks were closed Saturday noon because of the lack of currency with which to continue operations. The Reichstag bank claimed it had no cash on hand and none was in sight for immediate future. The sixty printing presses, which have been turning out billions of marks have ceased operations, owing to the strikes in the printer's trade. It is reported that the strike movement is spreading to various parts of Germany and among the different branches of workers, who are dissatisfied with their wage agreements.

**Erect Gallows for Effigies**  
BERLIN, Aug. 13.—Three effigies of Chancellor Cuno and Hugo Stinnes hanging from them, but the police tore them down. Five communists and one officer were killed, and seven strikers were killed in the Hamburg shipyards this morning.

**Communists Holding City**  
LUEBECK, Germany, Aug. 13.—Communists are holding the city after having forced the Senate to retire. Reichswehr troops have arrived.

**Bloody Battles Are Fought**  
LONDON, Aug. 13.—Sanguinary fighting between Communists and mil-

## LONG SOUGHT FOR REVOLUTIONIST CAUGHT WHILE ADDRESSING ELECTORS IN SMALL TOWN IN INTERIOR IRELAND

SELF CONSTITUTED PRESIDENT OF IRISH REPUBLIC FAINTS WHEN VOLLEY IS FIRED OVER HEAD BY CAPTORS

LONDON, Aug. 15.—A dispatch from Ennis, County Clare, says that Free State troops have captured Eamon de Valera, and he is now a prisoner at the local barracks. De Valera was addressing a meeting of electors in the market square when the Free State troops came upon the scene and fired several volleys over the heads of the crowd. A stampede then occurred.

The troops surrounded the platform and took the Republican leader prisoner. De Valera fell to the floor in a faint when the troops fired over the platform, and it was first thought he was wounded, but later he walked down the steps to the waiting troops, who marched him off to the barracks, in a pitiable state of fear.

Litla took place today at Sitz, Saxony, according to Berlin advices. The Communists stormed the town hall occupied by soldiers, and thirty were killed and many injured. Many soldiers were wounded.

## BERGDOLL SHOTS MEN WHO ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP HIM

EBERBACH, Germany, August 13.—Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, the notorious American slacker, shot and killed Carl Schmidt, a German Engineer, and wounded a man named Roger, when they seized him at his hotel and attempted to kidnap him. After waiting for two hours, in an old American Army automobile, in front of the hotel, he was arrested by police authorities, aided by an American lieutenant and several reserves off the U. S. S. Prince.

## NINETY SEVEN BODIES MINERS RECOVERED UP TO PRESENT DATE

THIRTY-SEVEN MINERS RESCUED DURING PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS—ONE MISSING

KEMMERER, August 16.—Ninety-seven bodies of the entombed miners were recovered yesterday with one still missing. Thirty-seven were rescued.

**FREED OF CHARGE BY JURY**  
SEATTLE, August 17.—Mrs. Maude Sweetman, member of the legislature, has been freed of the charge of disorderly conduct, and has charged in court that the police had "jobbed" her.

Join Urbach's circulating library; Fleischmann Yeast, fresh on every boat. Seward Drug Co. 184-ft

## HOOVER MAY BE RETIRED FROM HIS CABINET POSITION

PRESIDENT DESIRES TO RETAIN HUGHES, MELLON AND WEEKS IN CABINET

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—President Coolidge particularly desires to retain Secretaries Hughes, Mellon and Weeks in his cabinet; but is said to not particularly care to have Secretary Hoover, who has presidential aspirations of his own. A fight is being made against the retention of Secretary Wallace.

## GOVERNOR BONE AND SEN. HECKMAN COMING SEWARD

WILL HOLD FISHERIES MEETING IN THIS CITY SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL

The Territorial Fish Commission, composed of Governor Scott C. Bone, R. J. Heckman, of Ketchikan, Calvin Hazelett of Cordova, and H. E. Ellsworth of Seward, will hold a meeting in this city August 25th.

Mr. Ellsworth received a cablegram today from Governor Bone stating that he and Mr. Heckman would leave the 21st on the Alameda and that a meeting would be held here about the 25th inst.

**AMERICAN TRADING VESSEL CONFISCATED BY SOVIETS**

NOME, August 17.—The American trading schooner, Belinda, of Nome has been confiscated by the Soviet authorities and converted into a gunboat. Her entire cargo was seized.

## EXPLOSION TAKES HEAVY TOLL IN LIVES AND PROPERTY WHEN GAS POCKETS IGNITE FROM LAMPS OF WORKMEN

BODIES OF NINETY-ONE MEN HAVE BEEN RECOVERED FROM LOWER LEVELS, LEAVING OVER 100 IN MINE—ALL ARE DEAD

KEMMERER, Wyo., Aug. 15.—Two hundred miners in Number One mine of the Kemmerer Coal Company were entombed this morning following an explosion in the lower levels. A cave-in at Number 5 entry cut off all communication with the men. Up to noon but one body had been recovered.

**NINETY-ONE BODIES RECOVERED**  
KEMMERER, Wyo., Aug. 15.—Rescue crews have recovered the bodies of 91 miners, who met death this morning as the result of an explosion in the lower levels of Mine No. 1, of the Kemmerer Coal Company. Over one hundred bodies yet remain to be recovered. It is stated that all the men yet below are dead.

FRANC DROPS TO LOWEST PRICE IN HISTORY OF NATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—The French franc dropped to the lowest level in history today as a result of political developments in Europe. They were valued at five and one-half cents at the close of business today.

## GERMANY ON BRINK OF REVOLUTION AND EUROPE FACES WAR

SENATOR SMOOT RETURNS FROM INVESTIGATION OF CONDITIONS IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—A picture of Germany on the brink of revolution and Europe face to face with another war was brought home today by Senator Smoot who went abroad at the request of President Harding to study conditions in Germany as they affect the reparations problems.

## WILL CONFER WITH MANUFACTURERS NEW SITKA CABLE

SIGNAL CORPS OFFICIALS GO TO TALK OVER PLANS FOR NEW LINE TO SITKA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Col. Geo. S. Gibbs and Col. Frank J. Griffin, Signal Corps officers, sailed today for London for a conference with the two English bidders for the contract for manufacturing a cable to replace the line between Seattle and Sitka, Alaska. An English firm will secure the contract as Britain controls the growth and market of gutta percha.

**TWO IRISH PRIESTS KIDNAPPED**  
HANKOW, China, August 17.—Two Irish priests were kidnapped today when bandits pillaged Tsao-shih, and burned the Catholic hospital.